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★ MAY 12 2011

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BROOKLYN OFFICE

Civil Action No. **CV 11-2305**

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LAMONT RACKS,

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

KORMAN, J.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW YORK  
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE  
COMMISSIONER RAYMOND KELLY, FIRST DEPUTY  
COMMISSIONER RAFAEL PINEIRO, CHIEF OF  
DEPARTMENT JOSEPH ESPOSITO, POLICE OFFICER  
FELIX ORTIZ, JOHN DOE POLICE OFFICERS AND  
SUPERVISORS ASSIGNED TO THE 73<sup>RD</sup> PRECINCT  
AND JOHN DOE POLICE OFFICERS AND  
SUPERVISORS ASSIGNED TO THE BROOKLYN  
NORTH NARCOTICS,

LEVY, M.J.

Defendants.

-----X

Plaintiff, by his attorneys, Bader Yakaitis & Nonnenmacher, LLP complaining of the  
Defendants, respectfully sets forth and alleges as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a Civil Rights action in which the plaintiff seeks relief for Defendants' violation, under color of state law, of his rights, privileges and immunities secured by The Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983 and 1985, the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and the Constitution and laws of the State of New York.

2. The Plaintiff, Lamont Racks, brings this action under 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983 and 1985 and related state laws seeking compensatory and punitive damages and attorney's fees under 42 U.S.C. Section 1988 for the Defendants' violation of his rights afforded by the United States and New York Constitution and under the laws of The State of New York.

3. Defendants, The City of New York, The New York City Police Department, the individually named Defendants and John Doe Police Officers, the exact number which is unknown at this time, acting individually and in their official capacities, jointly and severally, did cause plaintiff Lamont Racks, to be falsely arrested, falsely imprisoned, assaulted, battered, maliciously charged with crimes he did not commit, maliciously prosecuted for crimes he did not commit and cruelly delayed his medical treatment.

4. The individually named defendants and the "John Doe" Defendants being employees of the City of New York and The New York City Police Department violated Plaintiff's Civil Rights, caused him serious personal injury, emotional harm and deprived him of his liberty.

5. The incident against the Defendants occurred on August 10, 2010 within Apartment 4A of 37 New Lotts Avenue, Brooklyn, New York where the plaintiff resided.

6. During his false arrest and imprisonment and while in police custody, the plaintiff was assaulted and battered. The Police Officers then cruelly delayed his medical treatment.

7. Plaintiff was thereafter maliciously prosecuted for crimes he did not commit.

8. Defendant Raymond Kelly was the Police Commissioner of the New York City Police Department at the time of this incident and as such was a superior and supervising officer of the police officers involved in the incidents described in this complaint.

9. Defendant Rafael Pineiro was the First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Police Department at the time of this incident and as such was a superior and supervising officer of the police officers involved in the incidents described in this complaint.

10. Defendant Joseph Esposito was the Chief of the Police Department at the time of this incident and as such was a superior and supervising officer of the police officers involved in the incidents described in this complaint.

11. Defendant Felix Ortiz was a police officer assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct at the time of this incident.

12. Defendant Felix Ortiz was a police officer assigned to Brooklyn North Narcotics at the time of this incident.

13. Yet to be named John Doe Police Officers were assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct at the time of this incident.

14. Yet to be named John Doe Police Officers were assigned to the Brooklyn North Narcotics at the time of this incident.

15. John Doe, Commanding officer was a supervising officer at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct when this incident occurred and is a superior officer of the officers involved in this incident.

16. John Doe, Commanding officer was s supervising officer at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct when this incident occurred and is a superior officer of the officers involved in this incident.

17. John Doe Commanding officer was a supervising officer at Brooklyn North Narcotics when this incident occurred and is a superior officer of the officers involved in this incident.

18. John Doe Police Officers assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn North Narcotics participated in the events described in this complaint.

19. Plaintiff seeks compensatory and punitive damages. Plaintiff also seeks an award of attorney fees and costs, and for such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

#### JURISDICTION

20. The Court has jurisdiction over plaintiff's claims under 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983 and 1985 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1331 and Section 1342(3).

21. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code Section 1343(3) and (4), this being a suit in equity which is authorized by law, Title 42, United States Code, Sec. 1983, to be brought to redress the deprivation under color of state law, statute, ordinances, regulations, custom or usage of rights, privileges, and immunities secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States or by any Act of Congress providing for

equal rights of citizens. The rights here sought to be redressed are rights guaranteed by the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1981, 1983 and 1985 as hereinafter more fully appears and The Constitution of the State of New York.

22. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1367.

PRE CONDITIONS TO PLAINTIFF'S STATE LAW CLAIMS

23. A notice of claim was filed by the plaintiff, with respect to his causes of action which occurred on August 10, 2010 setting forth the time when, the place where and the manner in which this incident occurred.

24. On February 11, 2011 the plaintiff testified at a statutory hearing in compliance with Section 50H of the General Municipal Law. More than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the presentation of these claims and the Defendants have not requested a physical examination of the Plaintiff pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 50H, the same having been waived by the Defendants.

25. This action is being commenced within the time limitations set forth in all applicable Federal and State Laws and Statutes.

VENUE

26. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(b)(2), in that this is the judicial district in which the events giving rise to this claim occurred.

JURY DEMAND

27. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury in this action on each and every one of his claims pursuant to the seventh amendment to The United States Constitution and Fed. R. Civ. P. 38.

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS

28. This is a proceeding for compensatory and punitive damages owing to the plaintiff as a result of violations of his Civil Rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and under Federal Law, particularly Title 42 of The United States Code, Section 1983, 1985, Title 18 of The United States Code, Section 1965(e), Title 18 of The United States Code, Section 1965(a), Title 18 of The United States Code, Section 1962 and Title 28 of The United States Code, Section 1367(a).

#### PARTIES

29. Plaintiff, Lamont Racks is and was a citizen of the United States, and is and was at all times relevant herein a resident of the State of New York having his residence in Brooklyn, New York.

30. Defendant The City of New York is a Municipal entity created and authorized under the laws of the State of New York and is authorized by law to maintain a police department which acts as its agent in the area of law enforcement and for which it is ultimately responsible.

31. Defendant New York City Police Department is an agency and/or department of The City of New York and acts on its behalf in the area of law enforcement.

33. Defendants The City of New York and The New York City Police Department maintained the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct located at 1470 East New York Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

33. Defendants the City of New York and the New York City Police Department maintained Brooklyn North Narcotics.

34. Defendant The New York City Police Department employed police officers for the purpose of law enforcement.

35. Defendants Raymond Kelly, Rafael Pineiro and Joseph Esposito and John Doe Supervisors are responsible for the practices, policies and customs of the New York City Police Department, as well as for the hiring, screening, training, supervising, controlling, retaining and disciplining of the persons employed by the New York City Police Department.

36. Defendant Raymond Kelly is and was, at all times relevant to this complaint, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department and is a final policy maker for purposes of the Police Department's policies, practices and customs.

37. As Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, Raymond Kelly was, at all times relevant to this complaint, responsible for the practices, policies and customs of the Police Department and its precincts and was responsible for the hiring, screening, overseeing, training, supervising, controlling, retaining and disciplining of officers who worked within the precincts.

38. As the First Deputy Commissioner, Rafael Pineiro was a commanding officer of the various precincts and was a final policy maker for purposes of the precincts policies, practices and customs.

39. As the First Deputy Commissioner, Rafael Pineiro was at all times relevant to this complaint responsible for the practices, policies and customs of the New York City Police Department and its precincts and was responsible for the hiring, screening, overseeing, training, supervising, controlling, retaining and disciplining of Officers who worked at precincts.

40. Chief of Department Joseph Esposito was a commanding officer of the New York City Police Department and was a final policy maker for purposes of its precinct's policies, practices and customs.

41. As the Chief of Department, Joseph Esposito was at all times relevant to this complaint, responsible for the practices, policies and customs of the New York City Police Department and its precincts and was responsible for the hiring, screening, overseeing, training, supervising, controlling, retaining and disciplining of detectives who worked within the precincts.

42. John Doe Defendants were at all times mentioned superior officers at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and Brooklyn North Narcotics and at all times relevant to this complaint were responsible

for the practices, policies and customs of the New York City Police Department and the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn North Narcotics and was responsible for the hiring, screening, overseeing, training, supervising, controlling, retaining and disciplining of Officers who worked at these Precincts.

43. On August 10, 2010 The City of New York employed unknown “John Doe” Police Officers who were assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn North Narcotics.

44. Defendants John Does, are, or were at all times relevant to this complaint, employed by the City of New York as police officers, supervisors, and/or commanding officers assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn North Narcotics. These John Doe Defendants include individuals who conspired to and/or acted in concert and/or did engage in the violation of plaintiff’s rights described herein, or who failed to protect the plaintiff from violations of his constitutional rights.

45. On August 10, 2010 the City of New York employed the aforementioned police officers who were agents, servants and/or employees of the New York City Police Department.

46. The individually named Defendants and yet to be named John Doe Defendants were at all times mentioned acting under color of state law, to wit, under color of the statutes, ordinances, customs, policies and/or practices of the State of New York and/or City of New York.

47. Defendants were also acting within the scope of and in furtherance of their employment with the City of New York and The New York City Police Department.

48. At all times relevant herein, each of the individual Defendants and the yet to be named John Doe Defendants acted under color of law in the course and scope of his or her duties and functions as an agent, employee, servant and/or officer of The City of New York and/or New York City Police Department in engaging in the conduct described herein.

49. At all times relevant herein, the individual Defendants and the yet to be named John Doe Defendants have acted for and on behalf of The City of New York and/or The New York City Police Department, and incidental to the lawful pursuit of their duties as officers, agents, employees

and/or servants of The City of New York and/or New York City Police Department.

50. At all times relevant herein, the individual Defendants violated clearly established constitutional standards under the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments of which a reasonable police officer and/or public official under his or her respective circumstances would have known to be so violative.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

51. Plaintiff, Lamont Racks, is an African American black male.

52. On August 10, 2010 the plaintiff was residing within Apartment 4A of 37 New Lotts Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

53. On August 10, 2010 at approximately 5:30 a.m. the plaintiff was awoken by loud banging on the door to his apartment.

54. Plaintiff then observed through the peephole of the door two individuals, dressed in suits, banging on his door.

55. Before plaintiff could open the door, these individuals forced their way into the apartment.

56. Then numerous police officers from the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn Narcotics North forced their way into plaintiff's apartment.

57. These officers entered plaintiff's apartment without a warrant.

58. These officers entered plaintiff's apartment without legal justification to do so.

59. Upon entering the plaintiff's apartment, the officers then assaulted, battered and beat the plaintiff.

60. During the course of this assault and battery, the plaintiff ran to a back room of his apartment.

61. Once in the back room, the plaintiff opened a window leading to a fire escape to call for help.



62. As the plaintiff attempted to call for help, the officers continued to assault and batter him.

63. The plaintiff was then physically forced on to the fire escape by police officers.

64. While on the fire escape, two police officers continued to assault, batter and beat the plaintiff.

65. Eventually, two of the police officers forced the plaintiff from the fire escape.

66. The plaintiff was able to grab on to the fire escape to prevent his fall.

67. While the plaintiff was clinging to the fire escape, the officers began to stomp on his fingers.

68. While the plaintiff was clinging to the fire escape, one of the officers stabbed the plaintiff in the ear with a metal object.

69. The plaintiff then fell four stories to the ground below.

70. This entire incident was witnessed by numerous individuals.

71. As a result of falling four flights to the ground below, the plaintiff suffered life threatening injuries.

72. While on the ground, it should have been obvious that plaintiff's physical condition was critical and that he needed urgent medical attention.

73. While the plaintiff was lying on the ground the police officers continued to kick and beat him.

74. As the plaintiff was lying on the ground unconscious, the police officers handcuffed him behind his back.

75. The police officers then dragged the plaintiff to a police vehicle.

76. The police officers present intentionally failed to call for medical assistance.

77. The police officers eventually took the plaintiff to Brookdale Hospital.

78. When the plaintiff arrived at Brookdale Hospital he was in a coma.

79. The plaintiff remained in a coma at Brookdale Hospital for two weeks.
80. While in a coma at Brookdale Hospital, the plaintiff was handcuffed to a bed.
81. While in the hospital plaintiff learned for the first time that he was arrested for crimes he did not commit.
82. While in the hospital the plaintiff was falsely and maliciously charged with crimes he did not commit.
83. Since his release from police custody the plaintiff has been constantly harassed, antagonized and threatened with physical harm by police officers assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn North Narcotics.
84. In order to charge plaintiff with a crime, the police officers manufactured evidence against him.
85. Prior to this incident, the plaintiff was targeted for abuse by police officers assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn North Narcotics.
86. This treatment was notorious and was known, or should have been known, by each and every superior officer at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn Narcotics North.
87. The plaintiff was falsely arrested, confined, imprisoned, battered, assaulted, handcuffed, humiliated, verbally and physically abused and forcibly taken against his will without probable cause, justification or provocation by agents, servants and employees of defendants The City of New York and The New York City Police Department and more particularly by yet to be identified Police Officers of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and/or Brooklyn Narcotics North.
88. As a result of this incident plaintiff was knowingly held in custody and deprived of his freedom and liberty.
89. The officers involved in this incident attempted to kill the plaintiff.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR FALSE ARREST

90. Plaintiff repeats and reiterates all of the allegations contained in paragraphs “1” through “89” as if fully set forth herein.

91. The plaintiff was falsely arrested by Police Officer Felix Ortiz and by the John Doe and Jane Doe Police Officers.

92. The plaintiff was arrested by Police Officer Felix Ortiz and the John Doe and Jane Doe, Police Officers without probable cause and without a warrant.

93. That the aforesaid arrest was caused by the defendants, its agents, servants and employees, including but not limited to the police officers without a warrant and without any reasonable cause or belief that plaintiff was in fact guilty of any crime.

94. That the aforementioned officers intended to confine plaintiff; plaintiff was conscious of the confinement; plaintiff did not consent to the confinement and the confinement was not otherwise privileged.

95. That by reason of the false arrest of plaintiff, the plaintiff was subjected to great indignities, humiliation and ridicule and was greatly injured in his credit and circumstances and was prevented and hindered from performing and transacting his necessary affairs and was caused to suffer much pain in both mind and body.

96. The aforementioned police officers intentionally and without the right to do so, arrested the plaintiff who was aware of the arrest and did not consent to it.

97. Plaintiff’s arrest was unlawful and was made without justification.

98. Based on the facts and circumstances presented, a reasonably prudent person would not believe that plaintiff committed a crime.

99. By reason of the aforementioned, the plaintiff suffered physical damages, great

mental anguish and was deprived of his constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE  
OF ACTION FOR FALSE IMPRISONMENT

100. Plaintiff repeats and reiterates all of the allegations contained in paragraphs “1” through “99” as if fully set forth herein.

101. Following his arrest, the defendants falsely imprisoned the plaintiff.

102. The defendants intended to confine the plaintiff.

103. The plaintiff was conscious of the confinement.

104. The plaintiff did not consent to the confinement.

105. The confinement was not privileged.

106. By reason of the aforementioned, the plaintiff suffered physical harm, great mental anguish and was deprived of his constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE  
OF ACTION FOR ASSAULT

107. Plaintiff repeats and reiterates all of the allegations contained in paragraphs “1” through “106” as if fully set forth herein.

108. On August 20, 2009 in the course of being falsely arrested, the plaintiff was assaulted by the aforementioned agents, servants, and/or employees of the defendants The City of New York and The New York City Police Department.

109. During the course of this unlawful arrest the plaintiff was subjected to the excessive use of force.

110. During the course of his arrest, the aforementioned police officers intentionally

placed the plaintiff in apprehension of imminent harm and offensive contact.

111. During the course of this unlawful arrest the plaintiff was the victim of police brutality.

112. During the course of his arrest, the aforementioned police officers intentionally caused the plaintiff to become concerned that they were about to cause him harm and that they were about to subject him to offensive contact.

113. The aforementioned officers had the real and/or apparent ability to bring about that harm and contact.

114. The plaintiff reasonably believed that harm and contact was about to occur.

115. By reason of the aforementioned, the plaintiff suffered physical harm, great mental anguish and was deprived of his constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE  
OF ACTION FOR BATTERY

116. Plaintiff repeats and reiterates all of the allegations contained in paragraphs “1” through “115” as if fully set forth herein.

117. On August 20, 2008 in the course of being arrested, the plaintiff was battered by the aforementioned police officers who were employed by The City of New York and New York City Police Department.

118. During the course of his unlawful arrest, the aforementioned police officers intentionally touched the plaintiff without his consent, and caused offensive bodily contact.

119. During the course of his arrest, the aforementioned police officers used excessive force.

120. A reasonable person would conclude that the contact was offensive, it was done with the intent to harm the plaintiff and the contact offends a reasonable sense of personal dignity and/or was wrongful.

121. Defendants use of force was not justified and was done willfully and maliciously.

122. Defendants committed the foregoing acts intentionally, willfully and with malicious disregard for plaintiff's rights.

123. The plaintiff was the victim of police brutality.

124. Said use of excessive force deprived plaintiff of the constitutional right to bodily security and liberty under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and amounted to an unreasonable physical seizure of plaintiff under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and constituted cruel and unusual treatment under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

125. By reason of the aforementioned, the plaintiff suffered physical damages, suffered great mental anguish and was deprived of his constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

126. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "125" as if fully set forth herein.

127. The aforesaid officers of The City of New York and New York City Police Department were acting as agents, servants and/or employees of The City of New York and New York City Police Department.

128. The aforesaid officers were acting within the course and scope of their employment.

129. The aforementioned acts of each of the defendants were under color of statutes, ordinances, regulations, custom and usage of the State of New York.

130. The aforementioned acts of each of the defendants deprived plaintiff of the privileges and immunities guaranteed to plaintiff as a citizen of the United States, by amendments IV, V, VII and Section I of amendment XIV of the Constitution of the United States and by the Constitution of the State of New York.

131. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' actions, plaintiff was deprived of rights, privileges and immunities secured to him under the Constitution and laws of The State of New York and United States, including, but not limited to his rights under the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C Section 1983.

132. The aforementioned acts of the defendants constituted cruel and unusual punishment of plaintiff and as such violated amendment VIII to the Constitution of the United States and of the State of New York.

133. By reason of the foregoing, the John and Jane Doe defendants are liable to plaintiff pursuant to Title 42 of the United States Code, including but not limited to Sections 1981, 1983 and 1985 thereof.

134. By reason of the aforementioned the plaintiff suffered physical damages, suffered great mental anguish and was deprived of his constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFF'S CIVIL RIGHTS

135. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "134" as if fully set forth herein.

136. All of the acts and omissions by the named and unnamed individual police officers described were carried out pursuant to overlapping policies and practices of The City of New York and New York City Police Department which were in existence at the time of the conduct alleged herein and were engaged in with the full knowledge, consent, and cooperation and under the supervisory authority of The City of New York and New York City Police Department.

137. Defendant The City of New York and New York City Police Department, by their policy-making agents, servants and employees, authorized, sanctioned and/or ratified the individual police defendants' wrongful acts; and/or failed to prevent or stop those acts; and/or allowed or encouraged those acts to continue.

138. The actions of the individual police defendants resulted from and were taken pursuant to the following de facto policies and/or well settled and widespread customs and practices of The City of New York and New York City Police Department, which were and are implemented by members of its police department:

- (a) Members of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Bureau And Brooklyn Narcotics North are encouraged and/or allowed by their supervisors to physically brutalize suspects and arrestees without consequence – i.e. without fear of reprimand, discipline or even re-training by the Department;
- (b) New York City Police Officers, including the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Bureau And Brooklyn Narcotics North, engage in systemic and ubiquitous perjury, both oral and written, to cover-up constitutional and state law violations committed against civilians by either themselves or their fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates. They did so and do so with the knowledge and approval of their supervisors, commanders and Police Commissioners who all:
  - (i) tacitly accept and encourage a code of silence wherein police officers refused to report other officers misconduct or tell false and incomplete stories designed to cover for and/or falsely exonerate accused police officers; and
  - (ii) encourage and/or fail to discipline officers for “testifying” and/or fabricating false evidence to initiate and continue the malicious prosecution of civilians in order to cover-up civil right violations perpetrated by themselves or fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates against those civilians; and
- (c) The City of New York and New York City Police Department with the knowledge, approval and encouragement of Police Commissioners, fail to properly train, supervise and/or discipline officers concerning the constitutional rights of individuals in their care and custody.

139. The Defendants established a custom, policy and/or practice of encouraging,



approving and/or tolerating the New York City Police Department's use of excessive force and acts of misconduct against civilians, especially those civilians who are of African American descent, and subsequent attempts to conceal such actions by failing to adequately train, supervise and discipline its agents, employees and officers.

140. The Defendants were deliberately indifferent to the use of improper procedures in the detention and arrest of civilians, especially those civilians of African American descent, and established a custom, policy and/or practicing of encouraging, approving and/or tolerating the use of said improper procedures by the New York City Police Department and subsequent attempts to conceal such actions by failing to adequately train, supervise and discipline its agents, employees and officers.

141. The defendants' actions were undertaken under the color of law and would not have existed but for said defendants' use of their official power.

142. The supervisors and policy making officers of defendants, as a matter of policy, were deliberately indifferent to said practices and have failed to take steps to terminate the above detailed practices and have failed to discipline or otherwise properly supervise the individuals engaged in such practices.

143. Defendants have failed to properly or effectively train their agents, servants and/or employees with regard to proper constitutional and statutory limits on the exercise of their authority, and such failures continue to this day.

144. Defendants have sanctioned the policy and practices heretofore described through its deliberate indifference to the effect of such policy and practices upon the constitutional rights of plaintiff and others similarly situated.

145. The Defendants' motivations were in contravention of the United States

Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New York.

146. The City of New York and New York City Police Department had a policy of encouraging abuse and assaults or of ratifying same by systemic deficiencies in disciplining officers or in the investigation of complaints against officers.

147. The foregoing acts, inaction, omissions and systemic failures are customs and policies of the municipal defendants which have caused its police officers to believe that determination of the rights to use force and the amount of allowable legal force was within their discretion and that complaints of the use of excessive force would not be honestly or properly investigated, with the foreseeable result that officers would be likely to use improper force.

148. The existence of the foregoing unlawful de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices is known to, encouraged and/or condoned by supervisory and policy making officers and officials of The City of New York and New York City Police Department including its Police Commissioner.

149. Despite knowledge of such unlawful de facto policies, practices and/or customs, these supervisory and policy making officers and officials of The City of New York and New York City Police Department including its Commissioner, have not taken steps to terminate these policies, practices and/or customs, do not discipline individuals who engage in such policies, practices and/or customs or otherwise properly train police officers with regard to the constitutional and statutory limits on the exercise of their authority, and insert sanctions and ratify these policies, practices and/or customs through their active encouragement of, deliberate indifference to and/or reckless disregard of the effect of said policies, practices and/or custom upon the constitutional rights of persons in their care and custody.

150. As a result of the aforesaid violation of Plaintiff's rights, he sustained injuries and damages previously described in this complaint.

151. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts, inaction, omissions and

systemic failures the individually named officers used excessive force against the plaintiff.

152. By reason of the aforementioned the Plaintiff suffered physical damages, great mental anguish and was deprived of his constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1985(3)

153. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "152 as if fully set forth herein.

154. The Defendants are liable under 42 U.S.C. Section 1985 (3) for conspiring to violate plaintiff's rights guaranteed by the aforementioned amendments to the United States Constitution.

155. The aforementioned defendant officers conspired, planned and agreed to treat plaintiff in the manner previously described for the purpose of depriving him, either directly or indirectly, of equal protection of the laws and/or of equal privileges and immunities under the United States Constitution and the New York Constitution.

156. The actions and conduct taken against the plaintiff was done in furtherance of their conspiracy.

157. As a result the plaintiff suffered physical injury, emotional harm, was subject to cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution and was deprived of his constitutional rights as previously described.

158. The defendants' conspiracy was motivated by plaintiff's race.

159. The existence of the foregoing unlawful de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices is known to, encouraged and/or condoned by supervisory and policy making officers and officials of The City of New York and New York City Police Department including its Police Commissioner.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR FAILURE TO INTERVENE – FOURTH AMENDMENT – 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983

160. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1” through “159” as if fully set forth herein.

161. Members of the New York City Police Department have an affirmative duty to assess the constitutionality of interactions between their fellow members of service and civilians and to intervene where they observe another member of the police department employing unjustified and excessive force against a civilian or an arrestee.

162. The aforementioned named and unnamed officers were present while the plaintiff was being assaulted, battered and falsely arrested.

163. The use of force against the plaintiff was obviously excessive and unjustified under the circumstances yet the other officer present failed to take any action or make any effort to intervene, halt or protect the plaintiff from being physically brutalized.

164. Defendant’s violation of plaintiff’s constitutional rights by failing to intervene in the clearly unconstitutional use of force against the plaintiff resulted in the injuries and damages set forth above.

AS AND FOR A NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISORY LIABILITY – 42 USC SECTION 1983  
AGAINST ALL DEFENDANT SUPERVISORS

165. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1” through “164” as if fully set forth herein.

166. Defendants supervisors were, at all relevant times, supervisory personnel in the New York City Police Department, with oversight responsibility for the training, instruction, supervision and discipline of the named and unnamed individual police officers who deprived plaintiff of his federal constitutional rights.

167. The conduct of the officers and their prior experience was so notorious that the supervising defendants knew or should have known of the likelihood of harm to the plaintiff or someone similarly situated.

168. These supervisory defendants failed to intervene to prevent the actions taken against the plaintiff.

169. These supervisory defendants were negligent in failing to take meaningful action to prevent the actions taken against the plaintiff which resulted in the deprivation of plaintiff's constitutionally guaranteed rights.

170. The individual supervisor defendants knew or should have known that the named and unnamed police officers were conducting unreasonable and retaliatory actions against the plaintiff aimed at harming him and depriving him of his constitutionally guaranteed rights.

171. The individual supervisory defendants participated in conduct aimed at harming the plaintiff and depriving him of his constitutionally guaranteed rights.

173. The individual supervisory officers either condoned or looked the other way at the prior conduct and experiences of the aforementioned officers.

174. The individual supervisory officers were personally involved in either ordering or failing to take preventative and remedial measures to guard against, plaintiff's constitutional deprivations.

175. The supervisory defendants created the atmosphere at the precinct which created opportunity for the actions against plaintiff to take place.

176. The supervisory defendants knew, or in the exercise of due diligence, should have known that the actions taken against plaintiff by the John and Jane Doe officers were likely to occur.

177. The failure of the individual supervisory defendants to train, supervise and/or discipline the named and unnamed individual police officers defendants with respect to the constitutional rights of arrestees amounted to gross negligence, deliberate indifference or intentional misconduct which directly and proximately caused the injuries and damages to the plaintiff.

AS AND FOR A TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

178. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1” through “177” as if fully set forth herein.

179. That following his arrest, plaintiff was wrongfully, falsely and maliciously charged by defendants and prosecuted with various crimes of which he was innocent.

180. That as a result thereof, plaintiff was required to appear in court to defend against these wrongful charges.

181. That as a result of the aforesaid malicious prosecution, plaintiff was subjected to great indignities, humiliation ridicule, was greatly injured in his credit and circumstances and was prevented and hindered from performing and transacting his necessary affairs and business and employment, and was caused to suffer much pain in both mind and body, and to sustain economic loss, and was otherwise damaged.

AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS

182. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1” through “181” as if fully set forth herein.

183. The aforementioned conduct of the named and unnamed officers violated the protections guaranteed to the plaintiff by the New York State Constitution, Article 1, Sections 6, 8, 11 and 12 including but not limited to the right to be free from unreasonable seizure of their person, including excessive force.

184. Defendants deprivation of plaintiff’s rights under the New York State Constitution resulted in the injuries and damages suffered by the plaintiff.

AS AND FOR A TWELFETH CAUSE OF ACTION  
NEGLIGENCE

185. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1 through “180” as if fully set forth herein.

186. The defendants, their agents, servants or employees acted negligently, carelessly and recklessly in the care and treatment given to the plaintiff during his arrest.

187. The individual defendants by their aforementioned acts, negligently failed to use due care in the performance of their duties in that they, among other negligent acts, failed to perform their duties as a reasonably prudent and careful police officer, detective and/or supervisor would have done under similar circumstances.

188. The negligent actions of the individual defendants directly and proximately caused plaintiff’s injuries and damages as set forth above.

189. The Defendants’ negligence was proximate cause of plaintiff’s damages.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
NEGLIGENT RETENTION AND HIRING

190. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1” through “189” as if fully set forth herein.

191. The aforesaid occurrences took place by reason of the Municipal Defendants, negligent training of the aforesaid Police Officers.

192. The aforesaid occurrences took place by reason of the Municipal Defendants’ negligent hiring and retention of the aforesaid police officers.

193. The Municipal defendants, their agents, servants or employees acted negligently, carelessly and recklessly in hiring and/or retaining the individually named defendants in that said individual defendants were or should have been known to be employees who abused and misused

their position, who were abusive or who acted intentionally and/or recklessly toward the public. The Defendants were further negligent in failing to discipline or retain these officers.

194. By reason of the foregoing the plaintiff was seriously injured.

195. The defendants, their agents, servants or employees acted negligently, carelessly and recklessly in supervising and/or disciplining the individually named defendants in that said individual defendants were or should have been known to be employees who abused and misused their position, who were abusive, or who acted intentionally and/or recklessly toward the public.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

196. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "195" as if fully set forth herein.

197. The actions of the defendants in assaulting and battering the plaintiff were outrageous and beyond any norms acceptable to society.

198. Defendants acted with the desire and intent to cause plaintiff emotional distress, or acted under circumstances known to them which made it substantially certain that they would cause such emotional distress.

199. Defendants acted with utter disregard of the consequences of their actions.

200. As a result of the aforesaid, plaintiff sustained injuries and damages previously described in this complaint, including intentional infliction of emotional distress.

AS AND FOR A FIFTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

201. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "200" as if fully set forth herein.

202. The individually named detectives and police officers, by their aforementioned acts, did negligently cause plaintiff to suffer mental and emotional distress.



AS AND FOR A SIXTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR

203. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs “1” through “202” as if fully set forth herein.

204. The Municipal Defendants are vicariously responsible for the actions of the individual defendants under the doctrine of Respondeat Superior.

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

205. Plaintiff will be seeking punitive damages against each of the named police officers.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands the following relief jointly and severally against all defendants:

- (a) A declaration that Defendants violated plaintiff's Federal Civil Rights;
- (b) Compensatory damages for the physical and emotional injuries suffered by plaintiff by reason of defendants unlawful and unjustified conduct, in an amount just and reasonable and in conformity with the evidence at trial;
- (c) Punitive damages against the individual defendants;
- (d) Attorneys fees;
- (e) The costs and disbursements of this action; and
- (f) For such other, further and different relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.
- (g) Plaintiff prays for Judgment against the defendants, and each of them as follows:
  - (1) Count One: \$50,000,000.00.
  - (2) Count Two: \$50,000,000.00.
  - (3) Count Three: \$100,000,000.00.
  - (4) Count Four: \$100,000,000.00.

- (5) Count Five: \$250,000,000.00.
- (6) Count Six: \$250,000,000.00.
- (7) Count Seven: \$250,000,000.00.
- (8) Count Eight: \$250,000,000.00.
- (9) Count Nine: \$100,000,000.00.
- (10) Count Ten: \$250,000,000.00.
- (11) Count Eleven: \$100,000,000.00.
- (12) Count Twelve: \$50,000,000.00.
- (13) Count Thirteen: \$50,000,000.00.
- (14) Count Fourteen: \$100,000,000.00.
- (15) Count Fifteen: \$100,000,000.00.

Dated: New York, New York  
May 2, 2011

Yours, etc.



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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

The undersigned, being an attorney duly admitted to practice in the Eastern District of the State of New York, affirms under the penalties of perjury; that I am one of the attorneys for the plaintiff(s) in the within action.

That I have read and know the contents of the foregoing summons and complaint and that the same is true to my own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe it to be true.

This verification is made by affirmant and not by the plaintiff(s) herein because the plaintiff(s) is/are not within the county where affirmant maintains his/her office.

This verification is based on information furnished to affirmant by the plaintiff(s) is this action and information contained in affirmant's file.

Dated: New York, New York  
May 2, 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN J. NONNENMACHER, ESQ.



Civil Action No.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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LAMONT RACKS,

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE  
COMMISSIONER RAYMOND KELLY, FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RAFAEL  
PINEIRO, CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT JOSEPH ESPOSITO, POLICE OFFICER FELIX  
ORTIZ, JOHN DOE POLICE OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS ASSIGNED TO THE 73<sup>RD</sup>  
PRECINCT AND JOHN DOE POLICE OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS ASSIGNED TO  
THE BROOKLYN NORTH NARCOTICS,  
Defendants.

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**SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT**

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**BADER YAKAITIS & NONNENMACHER, LLP**

*Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)*

**350 Fifth Avenue**

**New York, NY 10118**

**(212)465-1110**

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